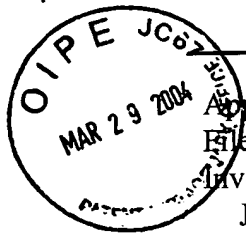


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Application No.: 09/398,624

Filed: September 17, 1999

Inventor(s):

James B. Keller and Derrick R. Meyer

Title: Response Virtual Channel
for Handling All Responses

Examiner: Waxman, Andrew

Group/Art Unit: 2667

Atty. Dkt. No: 5500-46201

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

Lawrence J. Merkel

Printed Name

[Signature]

Signature

3/26/04

Date

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION OF
February 9, 2004

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MAR 31 2004

Technology Center 2600

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action of February 9, 2004, to further highlight why the application is in condition for allowance.

Please amend the case as listed below.